

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 26, 2004 LB 835

eliminating the requirement for annual registration of bee colonies, and then also harmonizes those deletions in other places. Section 1 talks about the Apiary Act are permissive. Some of the remaining duties with the department, the department retains authority to inspect and carry out disease eradication programs, including to impose quarantines on individual colonies in areas at the state...of the state, and to destroy infected hives. The department will continue to provide health certificates upon request. It's not mandatory, it's just on request, and they still will be able to do that with the personnel that they have, even though they do not have a full-time apiarist. The department retains authority to prosecute violators, such as prohibitions on knowingly keeping bee colonies that are infected with disease and parasite. The department felt like, in light of what they're doing right now, that the statutes needed to be changed because of the decline in the number of bee colonies, and also in the funds that they had available and also no longer the personnel to carry out those duties. With that, I would ask your support for LB 835.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Chamber (sic). The Chair recognizes Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. One question I'd have, Senator Kremer, on this, if you would answer my question, will we still have some permits or some control over the bees coming into the state? We do have some apiaries out in western Nebraska and we have to be careful that there aren't some diseases imported with bees, because a lot of people will take them down into Texas and bring them back every year. Will we still have some inspection permit or inspection in place so that we have some control over the import of these bees?

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: No, there will be...there will not be a entry permit required at this time. I don't know if that...what would...did you have another question? No is the answer to that.